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U.S. News & World Report
2400 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1196
Attn: Mr Peter W. Bernstein, Executive Editor

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

"A funny thing happened on the way to the forum," or in my case between the time I agreed to become a subscriber once again to USN&WR and the time that my first issue arrived with its accompanying invoice. I was told about and then read about an apparently adulatory review in your pages of a book by a Mr. Gerald Posner entitled for some reason Case Closed and touted as revealing the real facts about John Kennedy's assassination. I fear that your staff reviewer (s) have been had, and, as a result have done the readers who depend on USN&WR for accuracy and objectivity a dis-service.

It would appear, first off, that Mr. Posner had few or no credentials for undertaking a work of this size and on this subject. He appears at most to have spent only two and perhaps as little as one year on this effort which is essentially a re-iteration of information in the Warren Commission volumes — much like Jim Bishop's work in 1968 —

interspersed with the results of some interviews that he (?) conducted in 1992/93, plus attacks on witnesses interviewed by other ~~others~~ authors as mostly drunkards or mental cases. He appears to have quite a fixation in that regard.

Here, I will only record some of the errors/problems I have noted in the first 29 pages of this 607 page work of art/artifice (?) A careful reading of the Warren Commission volumes would have eliminated all of these.

1. He refers repeatedly to John Pic as Oswald's step-brother when they were in fact half-brothers with their mother, Marguerite, in common.

2. He refers to the Atsugi base as being located twenty miles west of Tokyo, when it is in fact closer to twenty-five miles southwest of Tokyo, and about fifteen miles west of Yokohama

3. He refers to the death of Marine Martin Schrand at "Subic Bay" [Naval Base] in the Philippines when it in fact occurred at the separate Cubi Point Naval Air Station, some miles away.

4. He repeatedly refers to Oswald's duty station in southern California after his return from Japan as El Toro, when it was in fact Santa Ana, a distinct and separate facility about six miles away.

5. He also has mixed quotes from Marines stationed in either Japan or Santa Ana together lead-

Now, it could be argued that these are relatively minor errors in what was intended to be a major work. (I will leave it to more knowledgeable students of the subject to critique the book's more important faults/shortcomings.) However, your reviewer(s) would have picked up on some of these mistakes if they had any knowledge of the topic themselves.

Since, unless we are directly acquainted with them, we can only know authors through their writings, we have to wonder about Mr. Posner's real knowledge, care, and truthfulness as these characteristics are displayed in Case Closed. To his chagrin, he may find that his approach to this vast subject area and his errors scattered throughout may lead to the opening of a case to enquire just who he is and where he is coming from. No real student of JFK's assassination would make such careless errors as the few I have listed above. Enough said.

Since I have no desire to be associated, even as a subscriber, with a magazine that has handled this book review so ineptly, I am enclosing your invoice annotated "PLEASE CANCEL."

Yours truly

Charles C. Marks, Jr.